

definite requirements are made. The same is true of space for the fast developing medical and dental attention that communities are furnishing for their school children.

Schoolhouse planning construction has been and is today a matter of local option, and one does not here need to stop for proof of political influence. The architect is not infrequently a friend of the governing forces, and may have been interested in schoolhouses only through his reading. The contractor more frequently, even, is a citizen of the town; in many places it is a written or an unwritten requirement. In a small city such a man is likely to know little of the special needs of schoolhouses, but from just such men the city gets its building and equipment. One might be pardoned for thinking that in constructing buildings for the education of children, there would be required something in the way of special education of those responsible for the schoolhouses. This, however, has been even till now a forgotten or ignored method of procedure.

Realizing the chaos that exists in schoolhouse construction, under varying policies in the different states, some of which do not even provide standards of security to the scholars against fire, the National Education Association has entered upon a determination of minimum needs in the various factors to health and educational progress. It is a splendid and far-seeing piece of research, reports on which are already available in part. But it is high time for the health officer to come into co-operation with the N. E. A., and use his influence towards the establishment of proper health requirements in school building, places to which attendance is compulsory for one-third of the child's waking hours. In the campaign for the health of the child, there is hardly any more important movement than the reformation of the schoolhouse. This will require the plain statement of the case, the education of the parents and the establishment of a common sense basis for health legislation and regulations for schoolhouses. Every health agency in the country ought to be interested in an effort to make the schoolhouse a fit place in health and sanitation for the children on whom the future of the country must depend.

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#### A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Of Schools of Public Health there are many kinds, ranging all the way from that old-fashioned apprenticeship, in which a zealous pupil works with and under the immediate direction of a master, to those organized and maintained by universities, with fixed and extensive curricula and sessions covering one or more entire academic years. Some state health departments have an annual school lasting for a week or less and intended for the better information and special instruction of health officers in actual practice.

As a rule, the successful School of Public Health, like every other successful school, depends largely upon the personality of one or more of the instructors, and now and then we hear of one which owes its effectiveness to a single leader endowed with vision and enthusiasm and gifted with personal magnetism and the power of inspiration. Such a school is that conducted by Dr. Frederick W. Sears, Sanitary Supervisor of the State Board of Health of New York and Professor in the Medical School of Syracuse University.

In a recent issue we published an account of the Syracuse School prepared by Dr. Sears himself and lately given by invitation before the Harvard-Technology School of Public Health in Boston. We have it on the best authority that this school has been unusually successful and that those who have taken the various

courses and have reached the requisite standards have developed an enthusiasm for Public Health and obtained a practical knowledge of its problems and practice, which have redounded not only to their personal advantage but also to a marked improvement of Public Health Administration in the towns or districts under their care. It is to be noted that all of them were physicians or nurses not previously trained for Public Health work.

W. T. S.

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#### DR. HUGH SMITH CUMMING

The nomination by President Wilson of Dr. Hugh Smith Cumming as Surgeon General to the United States Public Health Service is especially significant as an expression of the development of public health within that Service. Commencing his career a quarter of a century ago in what was then the Marine Hospital Service, Dr. Cumming was in the forefront of the expansion under Surgeon General Wyman of national quarantine. This constituted a broad school in which he gained experience in various parts of the United States and in the Orient.

In the next great expansive movement, when by the recognition of sanitation, the Service became a truly Public Health Service Dr. Cumming was placed in charge of the investigation of the Potomac River and the Coastal Waters. It was in this work, by gathering around himself an efficient staff of specially trained sanitarians that he became recognized as one of the leaders in the field of Sanitation. With the outbreak of the War his services were requisitioned by the Navy to take charge of important health work which war activities made vitally necessary. His success in this work took him to Europe at the time provisions for embarking the huge American Army for return to the United States required assured methods to prevent the introduction into America of the numerous diseases that were afflicting war torn Europe. The remarkable feat accomplished in the return of 2,000,000 men who had been in intimate contact with the festering conglomeration of peoples from all parts of the globe, with all their heterogeneous diseases, without any detectable outbreaks in America bears testimony to the efficiency of the methods adopted.

While in Europe Dr. Cumming gained experience in all the public health activities throughout the Continent, and has been one of the leading American representatives in the important international Public Health Councils held in those countries. It is therefore logical that on his return to America, Dr. Cumming should be chosen leader of the great work in the Public Health Service which is developing so rapidly in this country. Sanitarians will welcome this recognition of the important progress which Sanitation has made in the field of Public Health.

#### CORRECTION

In the article in the January JOURNAL, "A Study of the Toxicity of Diphtheria Bacilli Isolated from Immediate Contacts," the statement appears: (Page 43, Col. 1, top) "In this particular instance only about 1 in 10,000 persons were potential sources of diphtheria infection when thrown in contact with non-infected persons."

Instead of "1 to 10,000" this should be "about 1 in 1,000."